

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25404

Proposed amendments would allow school districts to request a waiver of the minimum instructional hours from the State Board of Education when the entire district is impacted by unforeseen circumstances as a result of a natural occurrence and a county or state emergency declaration is declared. Requests for any such waivers would be accompanied by a plan developed by the school district outlining the efforts they were making to make up as many hours as possible and the number of hours they were requesting a waiver from. This provision is consistent with existing statutory authority the State Board of Education has been granted in waiving minimum requirements under extraordinary situations such as the transportation funding caps in Section 33-1006, Idaho Code, non-resident elementary and secondary student tuition in Section 33-1405, Idaho Code, staff allowance requirements in Section 33-1004, Idaho Code, and designations of hardship or remote and necessary schools allowing for the waiver of minimum number of student requirements specified in Section 33-1004, Idaho Code, to name a few examples.

FISCAL NOTE

There would be no fiscal impact from the proposed amendments to the state general fund. Section 33-1003A, Idaho Code, provides that when a school is closed due to storm, flood, or reasons believed by the local Board of Trustees to be in the best interests of the health, safety or welfare of the pupils the average daily attendance for such days shall be considered as being the same as for the days when the was in session. Therefore schools would be funded at the same level as if they had been in session resulting in no decrease in state funding to the school districts nor increase in funding from the state. Due to school district contracting obligations there may be a de minimis savings to the school district by not having to extend the school year significantly into the summer months.

Contact:

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).